1} Adm. Davis
2} rec. A 270409
HCH - 3 - B - 9/28/51 - HCH
4-
5- } B-9-28-51
6- } amdt
7 - Eurofe/MEC

August 16, 1951

TOP SECRET

Dear Admiral Davis:

I spoke to your office this afternoon and mentioned that we had delivered to Admiral Wright today a paper on the proposed Middle East Defense Board which he had requested. I am attaching a copy of that paper and the accompanying letter from Mr. Matthews.

We gather from a memorandum which Admiral Wright sent to Mr. Cabot today that the Middle East Command arrangements problem is moving ahead in the Standing Group.

I have left word at your office that Mr. Matthews or I would like to speak to you about the further steps that are planned.

Sincerely yours,

John H. Ferguson

Enclosures:
1. Copy 4, letter 8/16/51, Matthews to Adm. Wright
2. Copy 10, paper 8/16/51, "Middle East Defense Board"

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY WDLF JR DATE 5/25/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☒ RELEASABLE☒
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

Vice Admiral Arthur C. Davis,
Director, Joint Staff,
Room 2 E 923,
The Pentagon.

S/P:JHFerguson:dmh

TOP SECRET

COPY 8 OF 8 COPIES

Cy. 1
2) Adm. Wright, Rec. A-270394
3+ Mr Matthews
4+ Gadin Davis - A270409
5+ [illegible] - 9/28/51 HCA
6+
7-
8+ Command Structure

August 16, 1951

TOP SECRET

Dear Gerry:

I am enclosing copies of a paper we have prepared on the subject of the Middle East Defense Board, at your request.

I understand from Tom Cabot that you are preparing a paper on the Middle East Command arrangements. Because of the urgency of getting a United States position on these matters, I hope that we may be able to meet with the Joint Chiefs of Staff on these two papers as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Signed

H. Freeman Matthews
Deputy Under Secretary

Enclosures:
As stated.

Vice Admiral Gerauld Wright,
Deputy U.S. Representative on
the Standing Group,
Room 2 E 854,
The Pentagon.

S/P:JHFerguson:dmh

TOP SECRET

8/16/51

Ccs 1 and 2, Adm. Wright, rec. A270394
3 - Matthews
4 - Berry (JNF handed personally)
5 - Bingham
6 - Lewis Jones A-270395
7 - HVillard mw
8 - Bonbright - A 270396
9 - Cabot - A 270408
10 - Lovett - A-270409 11-RGD

Commander Directive

RE-RUN (8/21)
1-B-9/28/51
2- B-9-28-51
3- JHF B-9/17/51 AHH

MIDDLE EAST DEFENSE BOARD

1. There should be established at headquarters of the Supreme Allied Commander of the Middle East a Middle East Defense Board to serve as the focus of indigenous efforts to increase the defensive capabilities of the Middle Eastern States and to maintain the voluntary association of the greatest possible number of those countries in the defense of the Middle East, whether or not they are now prepared to contribute forces to SACME. Membership on the Board should include representatives of the U.S., U.K., France and Turkey and it should be open to membership by all the countries of the Middle East on a voluntary basis. The Chairman of the Middle East Defense Board should be the Supreme Allied Commander for the Middle East or his delegate.

2. The Middle East Defense Board should avail itself of every opportunity to establish in the Middle East reciprocal cooperation on defense matters. While the exact scope of the Board's activities will depend on the degree of support which it attracts from the countries of the area, its purpose will be to organize its functions in a manner designed to elicit the maximum cooperation from the Middle Eastern countries and, to the extent possible, consistent with the approach desired by these countries themselves. The respective defensive capabilities of the countries would not be considered a determining factor in admission to membership.

3. One of the important responsibilities of the Board would be to serve as a link between its SACME members

members and its non-SACME members. The Board would be responsible to the countries participating in its membership.

4. The Board would attempt to perform, among others, the following functions:

a. Serve in a consultative capacity in defense matters to national agencies and to SACME in order to secure support for SACME.

b. Secure cooperation among members in such fields as guerrilla warfare and intra-area defense.

c. Attempt to create conditions favorable to the acquisition of base rights and other facilities in the area.

d. Serve as the center for the initial discussion or correlation of Middle East requests for arms aid and training missions, etc.

e. Serve in such other ways as the support it attracts in the area permits.

5. The Board should aim to develop the fullest cooperation between the U.S., U.K., France and Turkey on the one hand and the countries of the Middle East on the other, in the defense of the Middle East. The representatives of the four governments should endeavor to place the emphasis on eliciting ideas and suggestions from the Middle Eastern countries, thus enhancing the sense of the Middle East's participation in its own defense problems. Members of the Board should be military personnel assisted as necessary by civilian experts familiar

familiar with the political and other problems of the area.

6. While the headquarters of the Board should be in the same place as SACME, it should hold meetings from time to time in different places in the Middle East.